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Agenda item 64
Advancement of women

Letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of a resolution adopted by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uzbek Senate containing information regarding the measures being taken in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the course of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

06-21647 (E) 250106

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Resolution of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on its implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Republic of Uzbekistan, in accordance with its National Platform and Plan of Action for Implementing the United Nations Committee's Recommendations, has made consistent efforts to implement the Convention. Implementation of the measures provided for has led to significant successes in securing real gender equality, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, and effectively protecting their rights.

Uzbekistan, the first country in the region to accede to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, has made further improvement of national legislation and reinforcement of the Convention's main provisions in the country's laws a high priority. Significant work has been done to institutionalize the defence of women's rights and to ensure their full-fledged participation in public, political, socio-economic, and cultural life. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Additional Measures to Strengthen Social Protection for Women, of 25 May 2004, was very important in this regard. The legal basis for ensuring women's rights and freedoms in the Republic comprises 22 laws, 11 Presidential decrees, 22 Cabinet of Ministers resolutions, and five departmental regulatory acts.

The Republic has formed an Interdepartmental Coordinating Council to ensure interaction among the agencies involved in improving the status of women, as well as a group to monitor implementation of the United Nations Committee's recommendations and those set forth in national and international documents on women's rights. A permanent commission has been created to coordinate the activities of State agencies and public organizations towards implementing a programme of measures and making the work with women more efficient. Uzbekistan has ensured that women are represented in all branches of government and has carried out goal-oriented work aimed at selecting, training, and promoting women to leadership positions. Women also play an important role in local self-government bodies. As civil society develops in the country, so too will the public activism of women's non-governmental organizations.

Of utmost importance has been the achievement of real equality in education, as a result of which Uzbekistan's women have one of the highest literacy levels in the world. They work in all leading branches of industry, and the State has created the essential legal guarantees for working women with respect to their social protection in industry. The number of women in business and farming is on the rise.

Safeguarding maternal and infant health has been the focus of special attention in the country. In all regions, the State has created marriage and family centres, screening centres, and genetic services and has implemented State programmes to improve the health of women of childbearing age. As a result of this work, maternal and infant mortality rates have declined significantly in recent years.

Nonetheless, quite a few questions and problems remain in this very important sphere and demand unflagging attention. Several measures in the National Plan of Action to implement the United Nations Committee's Recommendations have yet to be implemented. The effort to create real mechanisms for bringing women fully into the economy and improve their working conditions and defence of their rights when they are violated must be intensified. This sphere demands further attention, particularly through improved legislation, educational work by the mass media, and the introduction of gender disciplines in the system of secondary and higher education. It is important to set up an efficient system for gender expert analysis of legislation and bills, prepare and publish appropriate methodological materials, and educate the leaders of State organs about international standards in gender issues.

Having heard and discussed the issue of the implementation in the Republic of Uzbekistan of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Senate Foreign Policy Committee has resolved:

- To note that significant work has been done in the Republic of Uzbekistan to implement the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the National Platform, and the Plan of Action for Implementing the Recommendations of the United Nations Committee;
- In order to ensure further implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and associated measures provided for by national documents, to deem it necessary;
- To improve existing national mechanisms in this sphere and to strengthen gender awareness in the activities of ministries and departments and socio-economic development programmes;
- To conduct a system-wide gender analysis of existing laws and bills that will result in amendments and additions to current national legislation;
- To recommend that the Ministry of Justice coordinate expert analysis of the draft bills on State guarantees of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men, on eliminating domestic and other forms of violence, and on reproductive health, to be submitted in accordance with established procedure to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis;
- To recommend that law-enforcement agencies, local government, other interested ministries and departments, public associations, and the mass media work harder to end all types of violence and crimes against women. Implementation of these measures should be at the forefront of parliamentary oversight;

- To recommend that the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan widely publicize the provisions of the national report on implementation of the Convention and the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- To recommend that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Mekhr public association conduct a training seminar for leaders of State agencies, as well as senators and deputies from the Legislative Chamber, on international standards for gender issues;
- To send this decision to the appropriate ministries, departments, and organizations;
- To submit information on the results of the consideration of this resolution to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 1 June 2006.

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Agenda item 72
Holocaust remembrance

Note verbale dated 20 January 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and, pursuant to its note verbale dated 30 December 2005, has the honour to transmit herewith the text containing the explanation of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Iranian delegation intended to present on the resolution entitled "Holocaust remembrance", adopted under agenda item 72 at the 42nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 1 November 2005 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations would be grateful if the text of the present note verbale and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

06-21775 (E) 240106

Annex to the note verbale dated 20 January 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Explanation of position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the resolution entitled "Holocaust remembrance" adopted by the General Assembly on 1 November 2005

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns genocide against any race, ethnic or religious group as a crime against humanity. Many abhorrent cases of genocide that have regrettably occurred throughout history necessitate a thorough and comprehensive examination by the United Nations of the pain and suffering that this horrific crime has inflicted on various peoples and groups, avoiding a restrictive approach to a particular ethnicity or religion.

Addressing historical events of horrific enormity, with a view to avoiding their recurrence, requires a commensurate degree of scientific scrutiny and rigour. Rendering political judgements on such events and closing the door to any scientific inquiry on their characteristics, scope and extent would seriously undermine the sincerity of the endeavour, particularly in its preventive aspect, which should aim at precluding the reoccurrence of similar atrocities. The basic principles of democracy, including the right to freedom of expression and belief, should pave the way for exploring different aspects of historical events without any arbitrary restrictions.

Moreover, genocide and the immense sufferings associated with that horrific crime should not be manipulated for political purposes. Regrettably, the Zionist regime has routinely attempted to exploit the sufferings of the Jewish people in the past as a cover for its crimes being perpetrated today against Palestinians in the occupied territories, including massacre, demolition of houses, properties and farmlands, as well as acts of state terrorism. The international community should take strong action against such atrocious crimes of the Zionist regime and not allow it to manipulate humanitarian sentiments to pursue its illegitimate goals.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 23 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 January 2006 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-22164 (E) 260106

Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 November 2005 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/60/554-S/2005/714), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and of the "flight information region of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating onto itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. Following the rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the United Nations settlement plan last year, the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular, is expecting positive moves from the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrating its political will and sincerity for a fair and just settlement in Cyprus. As a first step, the Greek Cypriot administration without further delay, should heed your call and pronounce itself with "clarity" and "finality" on the question you have put to it.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 24 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 January 2006 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-22176 (E) 260106

Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Turkish side has worked hard in the past in support of your efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations. As you are aware, the Turkish Government fully and actively supported the process. The high percentage of Turkish Cypriot affirmative votes in the 24 April 2004 referendum is yet another testament to the dedication of the Turkish side to a comprehensive settlement.

History will certainly judge the party which has been responsible for the present impasse. However, we know that despite the setbacks, you remain fully engaged with this issue. Your leadership remains indispensable for the success of any effort towards a comprehensive settlement.

With this in mind, we have, in full coordination with the Turkish Cypriots, prepared a detailed action plan, which reflects our determination to move forward.

We believe that such an initiative has the potential to bring about a transitional process until a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus question is found. We hope that you would support the proposed action plan, which is not a substitute for an overall settlement but aims at paving the way for it by laying the ground.

Your efforts for the adoption of the action plan could culminate in a high-level meeting under your auspices, which would not only put the final seal on the plan, but might also enable the parties to look into the possibility of reactivating the overall settlement process. At that stage the constructive contributions of other relevant parties would also be welcome. However, what is important now is to preserve the delicate balance in the action plan and not to overload it with new elements.

I must also particularly emphasize the following point: the proposals contained in the action plan and their subsequent implementation will in no way prejudice the respective legal and political positions of the parties vis-à-vis the Cyprus issue.

Your support for this initiative will be highly appreciated.

(*Signed*) Abdullah **Gül**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

ACTION PLAN ON LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS IN CYPRUS

The UN Secretary General is kindly invited to consider holding consultations with the parties concerned with a view to implementing the Action Plan, the principal elements of which are outlined herebelow:

1. Opening of the sea ports of Turkey to Greek Cypriot vessels serving the trade of goods in accordance with the EC-Turkey Customs Union.

2. Allowing Greek Cypriot air carriers to use the Turkish air space for over-flights and to land at the Turkish airports in accordance with relevant international rules and procedures.

3. Opening of the ports in North Cyprus, including Gazimagosa, Girne, and Gemikonağı to international traffic of goods, persons and services under Turkish Cypriot management.

4. Opening of Ercan airport for direct flights under the Turkish Cypriot management.

5. Special arrangements for the practical inclusion of North Cyprus, as an economic entity, into the European Union's customs union. Unhindered direct trade between both sides of the Island as well as with the outside world.

6. Participation of the Turkish Cypriot side in international sports, cultural and other social activities.

The following procedural steps can be taken for the implementation:

7. A high level meeting is to be convened no later than May/June 2006 under the auspices of the UN with the participation of Turkey, Greece, the Turkish Cypriot side and the Greek Cypriot side with a view to finalizing the draft action plan which will be implemented as an integrated whole within an agreed time frame.

8. The action plan and outcome of the meeting are to be submitted by the UNSG to the UN Security Council. The UNSG may wish to establish a mechanism to keep the implementation of the plan under review, with a view to regularly reporting any development to the Security Council.

9. The assistance, particularly to the Turkish Cypriot side, of the UN and the EU Commission will help facilitate the implementation of the proposed measures.

10. The action plan will, in no way, prejudice legal and political positions of the parties concerned. It is aimed at bringing about an environment of cooperation and mutual trust with a comprehensive settlement perspective to the Cyprus issue.

In this respect, Turkey remains committed to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the framework of UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices and on the basis of the UNSG's settlement plan. Turkey earnestly hopes that an agreement on the comprehensive settlement will be reached in 2006.